GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2165
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS
Jagannath Dr. M.;Thummar Shri Virjibhai;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entrusted the National Institute of Smart Governance, Hyderabad with the work of study of the process of passport issuance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the number of passport applications received and verified by the Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) for issuance of passports during the last three years, year-wise, RPO-wise;

(d) the details of the number of employees working in these offices during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to augment the number of employees working in RPOs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government, Hyderabad with the task of undertaking a time-bound work study on the passport issuance system, including its Information Technology aspects with a view to introducing significant improvements in the functioning of Passport Offices. The study is to be completed by April 2007.

(c) The details of the number of passport applications received and passports issued during the last three years, year-wise, RPO-wise are attached as annexure.

(d) The number of employees working in Passport Offices during the said period was 2176 including 391 casual workers.

(e) The Ministry of Finance approved 293 additional posts in various categories in Passport Offices in August 2006, on the basis of a study undertaken by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance. This Ministry is in the process of filling up these posts.